

instructed person that, whilst it would be easy to draft proclamations of universal change, or even enact laws in a single sitting purporting to give a new Heaven and a new Earth, the result, the next morning, would be no change at all, unless indeed, the advent of widespread confusion I remember Mr Bernard Shaw saying, a whole generation ago, * Don't forget that, whilst you may nationalise the railways in one afternoon, it will take a long time to transform all the third-class carriages and all the first-class carnages into second-class carnages' Once we face the necessity of putting our principles first into bills, to be fought through Committee clause by clause, and then into the appropriate administrative machinery for carrying them into execution from one end of the Kingdom to the other—and this is what the Labour Party has done with its Socialism—the inevitability of gradualness cannot fail to be appreciated This translation of Socialism into practicable projects, to be adopted one after another, is just the task in which we have been engaged for a whole generation, with the result that, on every side, fragments of our proposals have already been put successfully into operation by Town and County Councils, and the national Government itself, and have now become accepted as common-places by the average man The whole nation has been imbibing Socialism without realising it' It is now time for the subconscious to rise into consciousness "

This is characteristic, it is the familiar Webb Equally characteristic however, if less familiar, except to those in closer contact with his mind, is that with which he ends After re-asserting that whatever the vices of existing authority, "the alternative to government is not freedom/' and, going on to state that

"the world needs to-day not less but more of that deliberately arranged co-operation among citizens in social

tasks, which we
term government,"

he touches on what he himself calls "the spirit
that giveth
life"

"Finally, let me remind you that there is a higher
need even
than government, whether it be the government
of a city or the
government of our tempers, or the government of
our tongues
It is not upon its plans or its programme,—not
even upon its